AFL WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Council Raps Failure of U.S. Housing Policy

Big Biz Takes Complete Charge Of Defense Job

Washington. — Big business brass has taken complete charge of the United States defense mobilization effort.

Except for a handful of "consultant" posts, labor has been frozen out of the mobilization picture. Labor spokesmen in the setup are outnumbered 100 to 1.

Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Producers Association and 4-term president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, was appointed Economic Stabilization Administrator to succeed Dr. Alan Valentine, former University of Rochester president, who couldn't make up his mind on whether or when to impose controls on the runaway cost of living and defense supplies.

Mr. Johnston works directly under Defense Mobilizer Charles E. Wilson, who quit as president of General Electric Co. to take his present job. In World War II, these positions were held by trusted members of President Roosevelt's official family, James F. Byrnes as the war mobilization director, and Fred M. Vinson as economic stabilizer.

In line with the policy of no labor representation, Mr. Truman named a 5-man commission to study the nation's long-range materials supply needs. He appointed William S. Paley, chairman of the board Columbia Broadcasting System; George Rufus Brown, Houston businessman; Arthur H. Bunker, New York banker; Edward S. Mason, Harvard professor, and Eric Hodgins, Connecticut author and editor.

Issue Last Call For War Claims

Washington.—The deadline for filing claims for the $1-a-day payments to prisoners of war or their survivors is March 1, 1951.

The final date was fixed by law and cannot be changed by the War Claims Commission. If you or a member of your family were held a prisoner of war during World War II, you may be entitled to these special POW payments.

For official claims forms and further information, call or see State Veteran's Agency, Veterans Administration, or write the War Claims Commission, Washington 25, D. C.

BUY BONDS

Chicago.—An outstanding example of union support of the U. S. Savings Bond drive is seen in a recent report by Arnold J. Rauen, State Savings Bonds Director for Illinois.

"During 1950," Mr. Rauen said, "35 local American Federation of Labor unions purchased $1,636,324 in Savings Bonds from their general, pension and welfare funds. We of the Illinois Savings Bonds office are indeed proud of this fine record of active cooperation on the part of Illinois labor."

NEW IROW OFFICERS.—Mexico City.—Francisco Aguirre (left), Cuban labor leader, newly-elected full-time secretary of the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers, chats with Serafino Romualdi, AFL international representative for Latin America, newly-chosen assistant secretary for publications of the IROW, during organizational meeting. IROW is Western Hemisphere branch of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Building Trades Offer U. S. Plan On Wages and Manpower Needs

Miami. — AFL Building and Construction Trades Department worked out with employer associations a plan for wage stabilization and meeting manpower needs of defense mobilization.

The program will be submitted to U. S. officials by a joint committee selected during the midwinter executive council meeting of the department.

AFL members are Vice President D. W. Tracy, president Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Department President Richard J. Gray, and Morris Hutcheson, United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

Employer members are James Marshall, Associated General Contractors; H. R. Cole, specialty contractors, and Paul Geary, subcontractors.

The plan, covering 2,500,000 employes in the $20 billion construction industry, calls for a 9-man board of labor, industry and public members to administer wage stabilization and settle disputes, except over jurisdiction, and to supply a full complement of skilled workers for defense construction.

Mr. Tracy resigned as a vice president of the Building Trades Department to permit Joseph Keenan to accept the full-time position of secretary-treasurer, succeeding the late Herbert Rivers. Mr. Keenan assumed office immediately.

To replace Mr. Tracy, the department's executive council elected Peter Fosco, secretary Common Laborers Union, a vice president.

Elects James C. Petrillo to Succeed the Late Joseph N. Weber

Miami, Fla.—The AFL executive council criticized the failures of the federal government to carry out an adequate housing policy for the defense emergency and elected Musicians President James C. Petrillo as 13th vice president at its midwinter session.

Mr. Petrillo succeeded to the seat held by the late Joseph N. Weber, president emeritus of the musicians who had held the post 25 years. Mr. Weber died last December. Mr. Petrillo, president of the musicians since Mr. Weber's retirement in 1940, took his seat on the council Jan. 23.

The council said in its statement on defense housing policy that "unfortunately, the policies of the federal government developed since the Korean outbreak have not been following principles" that recognized the needs of the situation.

Government housing policies, the council said, have not fully recognized that:

1. We entered defense mobilization with acute housing shortage.

2. We must make certain that whatever housing is built must meet most acute needs.

3. Cutbacks should be applied with least disturbing effect on organization of building industry.

4. In particular restrictions should not be applied which would lead to extensive periods of unemployment for building trades workers.

5. On basis of very little information, government officials ordered country's housing program cut 800,000-850,000 units in 1951.

6. Many steps have been ill-advised such as cutting the low-rent public housing program while no effective limitations have been placed on luxury housing.

7. Credit restrictions have cut off low and middle income families from opportunity to purchase new homes.

8. Housing and Home Finance Agency has failed completely to meet responsibility to meet nation's acute housing requirements.

The council urged the federal government to eliminate these shortcomings, call in the AFL building trades unions and work out an over-all program to get houses built where they are needed at rents workers can afford to pay.

Latin American Commies Enter U. S. Disguised as Mexican Farm Workers

Washington.—Latin American communists are infiltrating the United States disguised as agricultural workers from Mexico.

President H. L. Mitchell of the AFL National Farm Labor Union submitted evidence to the Special Farm Labor Committee of the U. S. Labor Department.

The committee is composed of employers from the 48 states who are principal backers for the importation of 400,000 Mexican farm laborers to depress wages and working standards of American wage earners.

Mr. Mitchell said that an officer of his union had just received a letter from the "Organization of American Nationals in the United States," whose headquarters are in Mexico City, that the Mexican Communist Party had recently sent in organizers to disrupt agricultural production in the United States.

Such communist agents were reported by Mexican trade unions to be operating now among Mexican nationals engaged in farm work in the Imperial Valley of California.

Mr. Mitchell challenged the employers of farm workers to support legislation providing fair wages and a decent American standard of living for their employes.

He pointed out that there is no longer any excuse for agricultural employers to refuse to pay American citizens a fair wage with prices of farm products at a record high. He said if they would accept a permanent bill to stabilize agricultural employment, including fair wages and the right of self organization, there would be no need for importing foreign labor.

Lucy Lang's Book Printed in Japan

Beverly Hills, Calif.—Mrs. Lucy Robins Lang has been advised that her book, "Tomorrow Is Beautiful," has sold out its first printing of 3,000 copies in the Japanese language.

The book, which recounts Mrs. Lang's services in behalf of organized labor, was selected by The Library Association of Tokyo as one of its "recommended books."

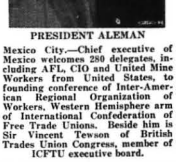
Mrs. Lang's book ran to 292 pages in English and 363 in Japanese. She has given autographed copies of both editions to AFL President William Green.

VISIT AFRICA

Brussels, Belgium. — Harold D. Snell, assistant to the president CIO United Transport Workers, was nominated jointly by the AFL and CIO to be a member of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions mission to West and Central Africa.

The mission will spend 2 months studying the trade union situation in French West and Equatorial Africa, Cameroons, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, Gambia, Nigeria, Belgian Congo and Liberia.

It will participate in an ICFTU conference of all bonafide trade unions at Douala, in the Cameroons, about the end of February.



PRESIDENT ALEMAN

Mexico City.—Chief executive of Mexico welcomes 240 delegates, including AFL, CIO and United Mine Workers from United States, to founding meeting of Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers, Western Hemisphere arm of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Beside him is Sir Vincent Tewson of British Trades Union Congress, member of ICFTU executive board.

APPLICATIONS OPEN

New York.—Applications are being received until Feb. 1 by the AFL International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union for entry to the Training Institute's 1951-52 session scheduled to begin on May 14.

Applicants must have at least the equivalent of a high school education and be in the age group 21 to 35. Men and women interested in making service to the labor movement their life's work are urged to direct their request for further information and an application form for entrance to the Institute to Arthur A. Elder, Director, ILGWU Training Institute, 1710 Broadway, New York City, N. Y.

Praises AFL Help Building Seabees

Miami.—High praise for the construction know-how which organized labor has contributed to the training of Navy Seabees was voiced by Rear Admiral Joseph F. Jelloy, chief Navy Civil Engineers and "King Bee" of the Seabees, in a talk before the executive council of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department.

"The readiness of the Seabees today to handle any assignment that might be given them is due in no small part to the fine cooperation which organized labor has given the Navy," said Admiral Jelley.

"Your assistance in recruiting Seabees for the Navy is a major factor in enabling the Construction Battalion Reserve to maintain nearly full strength, despite the recall of many reservists to active duty."

The admiral referred to the campaign supported by union labor to recruit men over draft age as Standby Seabees. The Navy seeks 70,000 competent construction men in the Seabee Reserve. This number would provide the solid core of competence on which a full scale wartime organization could be built, he said.

"If we succeed in getting men who really know how to build, we can teach them how to fight in a comparatively short time," continued Admiral Jelley. "But with a grave emergency threatening us, we must depend on the trade training which you have given them through your apprentice programs to provide their 'Can Do.' Certainly the construction trades came through with flying colors the last time, and if the need comes, I am confident you can and will deliver again."

Admiral Jelley described the contribution which Seabee amphibious forces have made in the Korean fighting.

Denies British Anti-American

Miami. — All the newspaper guff about the British people being anti-American is just "plain nonsense."

Sir Vincent Tewson, general secretary British Trades Union Congress, told the AFL executive council that the British people feel the closest friendship for the United States.

The British people see eye-to-eye with the Americans and will go down the line with the United States in its stand against communist imperialist aggression, Sir Vincent said.

AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany told the British visitor at a dinner given by the executive council during its midwinter meeting that the survival of the free world depends upon the close cooperation of the English-speaking peoples.

Sir Vincent, a member of the executive board of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, paid a visit to the council enroute back from the Mexico City meeting of the ICFTU to London.

WANT TO STUDY ABROAD?

Washington.—More than 30,600 foreign study opportunities are reported in UNESCO's new edition of "Study Abroad," an international handbook of fellowships, scholarships and study grants. The volume is on sale by Columbia University Press, 2960 Broadway, New York, N. Y., for $1.25.

Tobin Sees Jobs For 4 Million More in a Year

Washington. — Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin continued the fight to maintain federal wage-hour and labor standards in an appearance before the preparedness subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

An undercover, little-publicized attack on the 75 cents minimum wage and hour law, the Walsh-Healey and Bacon-Davis acts is being carried on viciously by big business interests and reactionary Democrats and Republicans in Congress and the state capitals.

These forces are attempting to scuttle these laws by having them repealed or suspended for the emergency. Secretary Tobin has issued several statements and made speeches that there is no necessity for relaxing these minimum standards in the present emergency.

He told the Senate subcommittee under questioning that the maximum defense production workweek should not exceed 48 hours with time and one-half after 40 hours worked and he saw no need for imposing a 48-hour week "for a long time."

Secretary Tobin also told the preparedness subcommittee that on the basis of President Truman's announced goals, we can expect up to 4 million additional civilian workers being placed in defense production during the fiscal year beginning July 1.

In his statement, Mr. Tobin said he considered it unlikely that "it would be efficient or desirable to increase the average for all manufacturing employes much above the World War II peak levels." He pointed out that while 48 hours was the maximum then, the average week was 45½ hours.

"I believe you will get diminishing returns in production if you go above that," he said. He then emphasized that "48 hours is not an immediate problem and is not likely to occur in the immediate future. . . . It will be a long time before we have to go to 48 hours."

The additional 4 million defense workers would be made up largely, Mr. Tobin indicated, from the unemployed, who total about 2.2 million, from normal additions to the work force and by attracting nondefense workers. He told the Senate group that "under conditions similar to those existing at the peak of World War II, and with the present population structure, we would probably raise the total labor force, including armed services labor, by some 5 million more men and women."

In this connection, he said that the Federal Security Administration would send to Congress a proposal to provide for large-scale child-care centers and other community facilities that would release many thousands of additional women for employment.

SAMPLE SWORN

Miami.—Chester Sample, president Molders and Foundry Workers Union, was inducted as a vice president of the AFL Metal Trades Department at the midwinter executive council meeting.

Mr. Sample was elected at the annual convention in Houston last September.

The department's council discussed wage stabilization and the part in the government's big new shipbuilding and repair program as part of the national defense build-up.

RESUME MEETINGS

Washington.—Regular meetings of the AFL Legislative Council, composed of Washington legislative representatives of AFL unions, were resumed Jan. 16.

PETRILLO HONORS BLIND MUSICIANS.—Chicago.— James C. Petrillo, president AFL American Federation of Musicians, plucks the bull fiddle as blind musicians Frank Anderson (left) and Ernest Moeller (right), members of Musicians Local 10, join him in Christmas carols. Mr. Petrillo was host to blind members of Local 10 and 208 at 14th annual Christmas party in Blackstone Hotel.

Winters Accepts Rose Parade Prize

Pasadena, Calif.—AFL Vice President Herman Winters, president emeritus Bakery and Confectionery Workers, accepted the award of merit plaque won by the Southern California Joint Executive Board of the union for its float in the 1950 Tournament of Roses parade.

The Bakery and Confectionery Workers float this year depicted the four freedoms, featuring a huge American eagle fashioned from gold, white and red chrysanthemums.

One of the 4 beautiful girls was Nancy Theanne Davis, granddaughter of Arthur Hutchings, secretary San Gabriel Valley Central Labor Council. Charles Bolton, secretary Teamsters Bakery Drivers Local 276, said his driving had never before received so many whistles of appreciation.

Besides the plaque presented to Mr. Winters, he was given a cake replica of the 1951 float presented by Ralph Sunderland and Henry Veach of Ralph's Grocery Bakery.

Ohio Seeks Holiday On Election Day

Columbus.—The Ohio Federation of Labor is backing a bill in the 99th Ohio General Assembly, now in session, which would make election days legal holidays.

The proposal is part of the "realistic" legislative program supported by the Ohio federation.

In outlining the federation's program, Secretary-Treasurer Phil Hannah said, "Organized labor has always battled to keep pace with progress, and this year will be no exception."

Top AFL measures will be efforts to increase workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance benefits; legislation permitting state workers to organize and bargain collectively; repeal the Ferguson Act that prohibits strikes by public employes; declaration of election days as legal holidays; establishment of a 75-cent-an-hour minimum for both sexes; lowering the elegibility age for pensions from 65 to 60, and creating a Fair Employment Practices Commission.

Other problems of interest to workers which will face the incoming assembly are readjustment of the state's tax structure, poor relief financing, expansion of welfare facilities.

BAKERY WORKERS WIN ROSE PRIZE.—Pasadena, Calif.—AFL Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union won third prize with this float in the 1951 Tournament of Roses Parade. It depicts the "Four Freedoms" with Nancy Theanne Davis, granddaughter of Arthur Hutchings, secretary San Gabriel Valley Central Labor Council, portraying "Freedom from Want." The huge American Eagle was fashioned from gold, white and red chrysanthemums and the union label was exhibited on either side.

1950 Home Building Smashed Records

Washington. — The nation's homebuilders started 95,000 new permanent nonfarm dwelling units in December, bringing the 1950 total to a record-smashing 1,400,000 units.

The U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics said this total exceeded the 1949 record volume of 1,025,100 units by 36 percent, and was almost 50 percent above the previous peak of 937,000 units in 1925.

An 11-percent increase in December brought that month's total to 95,000 units.

Humphrey Asks FEPC Revival

Washington. — Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota proposed to President Truman that he issue an executive order establishing a Fair Employment Practices Commission similar to that of World War II.

"Many American citizens are today unable to contribute their skills and abilities to defense production solely because of their color or religion or national origin," Sen. Humphrey said in a letter to the President.

Buy union made goods and services.

Legislative Council Alerted to Fight Big Business Sales Tax

Washington.—The AFL opposes a federal sales tax and is marshalling all its forces to prevent enactment of such a revenue measure.

W. C. Hushing, national legislative chairman, alerted the National Legislative Council at its first meeting to the attempt by the National Association of Manufacturers and other big business interests to put across a sales tax to raise the $16 billion new revenue needed to balance President Truman's budget.

Simultaneously AFL Vice President Matthew Woll wrote to President Truman, Secretary of Treasury John W. Snyder and the chairmen of House and Senate tax writing committees to tell them the AFL opposes any further tax on consumers through a federal sales or manufacturers excise tax.

Mr. Woll said there are numerous other ways to raise revenue than to impose further taxes on the already overburdened low-income taxpayer.

Truman Sets Labor Goals

Washington.—In his budget message to Congress for the fiscal year beginning next July 1, President Truman set these labor goals:

Labor Force — Sustained defense program calls for a highly productive and stable working force, well trained, with skills fully utilized, and with good working conditions and labor relations.

Supply—Armed forces will take 1,000,000 more men and women in next 12 months than defense workers needed in defense industries. Means women, older men and physically handicapped persons must join the working force and many people already employed must shift to more essential activities.

Training—Must quickly train new workers; increase apprentice and on-the-job training.

Migration—Where migration cannot be avoided, federal government will assist localities in getting adequate housing and other community facilities and services.

Safety—Defense Production Act funds will be used to help states plan special industrial safety campaigns.

FEPC—Recommends that the Congress establish Fair Employment Practices Commission to prevent discrimination in interstate commerce.

Disputes—Recommends 25 percent increase in Federal Mediation Service staff to handle labor disputes promptly.

Unemployment Compensation—Expand Federal standards so states can bring their laws into conformity.

Knowland Amendment—Repeal it.

Union Members' Rights Safe

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent of AFL News Service

New York.—A study authorized by the American Civil Liberties Union in Feb. 1950 to "discover if, and to what extent the civil liberties" of trade union members "have been violated" has been concluded with the announcement by the organization that no full-scale investigation could "be justified or successful at this time."

The conclusion was reached by the ACLU's Board of Directors on the basis of a report received from Prof. Philip Taft of Brown University, a distinguished student in the field of American trade unionism, who undertook last summer to see whether a full-scale investigation was necessary or possible.

The ACLU, a long-time defender of civil liberties and so-called "unpopular" causes, did not, however, in a brief note to labor editors and reporters, grant American trade unions any absolution. More importantly, however, it did not release simultaneously the report of Professor Taft, a recognized expert, which obviously is of major public interest and import.

A copy has been obtained of Professor Taft's report, which declared that "exacquaintance with the functioning of unions on the local level gives little ground for belief that union members have had their rights curtailed to any great extent."

"The lively campaigns for local office," he wrote in his study for the ACLU, "and the frequent defeats of incumbents, the rejection of contracts by the membership after acceptance by union negotiators, the prevalence of 'wildcat' strikes, all attest to the willingness of union members to assert themselves when they feel aggrieved."

This is what Professor Taft told ACLU:

1. Although it was expected that public announcement of this pilot study would stimulate a flow of complaints from union members and others, "only a relatively small number of complaints were received—not all of which had even prima facie merit."

2. Interviews with leading labor reporters on New York City newspapers, "many of whom had complained in the press of abuses practiced by trade unions" disclosed that "not a single one was ready with concrete evidence to support his charges in connection with particular occurrences."

"Notwithstanding these difficulties," he said, "an attempt was made to collect and evaluate other sorts of information on the status of civil liberties in the trade union field for the past 7 years. Based on this information, it is the writer's opinion that no detailed study is justified at this time."

3. On the question of discrimination by trade unions because of race, color or religion, the courts "have to some extent" helped to eliminate discrimination and the Taft-Hartley law "may have a deterrent effect on racial discrimination in unions." (Incidentally, Professor Taft, an outstanding liberal, is in no way related to Senator Taft.)

4. A "serious problem" has been the exclusion and expulsion of communists and their sympathizers from membership and officership in many trade unions. Professor Taft held that expelling persons from union membership merely for holding communist views or sympathies or mere membership is going too far, although "the denial to communists and sympathizers of the right to hold office in unions poses a more difficult issue."

5. On the question of closed unions, Professor Taft indicated that the T-H law had had some effect although "it must be recognized, of course, that some closed unions are the result of economic necessity rather than the product of racketeering or the desire to enrich the union treasury."

A limited inspection of the problems arising out of disciplinary actions taken by trade unions revealed that there are fewer instances of abuse than might be imagined from the wide publicity given those instances where "not a single charge has apparently been denied," the report asserted.

". . . This is not to say that abuses and violations of due process have not occurred. Such an assumption is unwarranted in the light of our knowledge of people in general and union officers in particular. But there would appear to be no evidence that abuses are so common or widespread as to warrant an extensive investigation.

"It might be added here that the rights of members in a labor union cannot be as broad as the rights of citizens in the community at large. Not only does trade union membership involve limited groups of wage earners addressing themselves to particular problems and for specific purposes but, because of the nature of the conflict between employers and trade unions, the latter must often require stricter discipline than the community as a whole may ordinarily apply to citizens in general."

6. Examination of union constitutions to evaluate the rights of union members today would be unprofitable since such documents "seldom express the realities of political life within labor organizations."

Labor ON THE AIR

Good Radio Listening!

FRANK EDWARDS — News Commentator, Mutual Broadcasting System (MBS) Nightly, Monday through Friday — 10 p.m. EST.

AMERICA UNITED—Forum, National Broadcasting Company (NBC) Sunday, 12 noon EST.

CROSS SECTION USA — Interview, Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) Saturday, 4:30 p.m. EST.

Listen to these programs in which the American Federation of Labor participates. Consult your local newspaper for exact date and time when these programs are carried by your local stations. Urge your local station to carry these programs.

IF YOU HAVE MORE PAY---- WATCH PRICES----- AND SAVE!
THIS OVERTIME GIVES ME MORE PAY
LET'S GET A NEW WASHING MACHINE
APPLIANCES AND METAL GOODS ARE SCARCE AND HIGH
WE'D BETTER BUY SAVINGS BONDS
AND TAXES MAY GO UP TOO

—AFL Labor's Monthly Survey

Harrison Says Sales Tax Would Fail To Control Inflation; Raps Business

New York.—AFL Vice President George M. Harrison told the Economic Club of New York that the AFL is "opposed to a national sales tax because it does not attack inflation at its source—the price and profit level."

The president of the AFL Railway and Steamship Clerks told the Big Business executives in a blunt, no-punches-pulled, speech that "the seller and speculator fix prices, and if they won't stop raising prices they must be controlled."

"If prices are controlled, then we agree that wages should be stabilized in parity with prices," Mr. Harrison said.

Secretary of Treasury John W. Snyder and reactionary Democratic and Republican members of Congress are playing along with Big Business in an effort to levy a federal sales tax on the excuse it is needed to finance President Truman's defense emergency budget.

"Taxes must be raised to get the revenues to pay for our rearmament," Mr. Harrison said. "They should come from corporation and excess profits and individual incomes."

He said labor is aware of "the harvest that has been garnered by American business in the last year of rapid price increases" and the "rich gains" resulting from rapid amortization of war plants.

"We believe we have a right to expect forbearance, common sense and national cooperation from those who own our industries," he said.

Besides its greedy profiteering, Mr. Harrison criticized business for its efforts to take away the fundamental right to strike, its willingness to accept federal land grants, subsidies, loans and liberal contracts but to brand any government help for all the people as socialistic or un-American, and its unreasoning opposition to labor demands for wage increases to offset the burden of rising living costs.

"American wage-earners face the future and its responsibilities seriously, but with confidence," Mr. Harrison said. "But if we are compelled by circumstances beyond our control to wage another war, we are determined to let nothing stand in the way of victory—victory that will mean not only a better America, but a better and more peaceful world in our time."

Food Prices Hit All-Time Peak

Washington.—Retail food prices rose 1.2 percent to a record high level between Dec. 15 and Jan. 2.

The Labor Department estimated prices reached 218.9 percent of the 1935-39 level, 1 percent above the previous record high established July 15, 1948. Since the Korean outbreak, prices have risen 6.9 percent.

The biggest increase was 4.7 percent for fats and oils.

The next biggest increase was for dairy products, up 3.5 percent. Prices of meats, poultry and fish rose 1.7 percent.

Building Trades Elect Keenan To Rivers Post

Miami.—Joseph Keenan, director Labor's League for Political Education, was elected secretary-treasurer of the AFL Building Trades Department at its midwinter executive council meeting.

Mr. Keenan, former international representative of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor, succeeds the late Herbert Rivers, who died last Dec. 6.

Mr. Rivers held the position since 1937.

Wage stabilization, housing legislation and the impact of federal controls on construction were among the many issues taken up by the department's council.

RIESEL ON WFDR

New York.—Victor Riesel, whose syndicated column appears in 168 newspapers through the country, began a new series of commentary on world affairs on WFDR every Monday evening at 6:30 o'clock.

Truman Budget Asks Funds to Help Defense Workers, Expand Benefits

Washington.—President Truman's record-breaking peacetime defense budget submitted to Congress on Jan. 15 outlines a broad program to help workers in defense industries and to expand benefits for all workers.

Mr. Truman asked for $71,594,000,000 for the fiscal year beginning next July 1. He estimated receipts at more than $55 billion with the remaining $16 to be raised by new taxes.

He said 69 per cent of the total, or $48.9 billion, would go for military purposes and building up our armed forces to resist Soviet Communist aggression.

The President noted that the budget also contained "expenditures for programs which will maintain and develop our national strength over the long run, keeping in mind that the present emergency may be of long duration and we must, therefore, be prepared for crises in the more distant as well as in the immediate future."

He thus keyed to the defense program a number of previously recommended Fair Deal measures and reiterated his requests for enactment of legislation necessary to carry them out.

They included health insurance, aid to education, a Fair Employment Practice Act, expansion of Social Security and a farm program along lines proposed by Charles F. Brannan, Secretary of Agriculture.

The President also recommended anew and budgeted funds for a dozen other items requiring legislation, including authority to construct defense plants, higher postal rates, a St. Lawrence Seaway and power project, loans for Indians, defense housing incentives and extension of authority to control exports, rents, prices, wages and the distribution of materials.

Be independent—buy Independence Bonds.

NEW COAL PACT

Washington.—The United Mine Workers and soft coal industry signed a new wage contract amendment calling for 20 cents an hour increase effective Feb. 1.

The $1.60 per day rise will increase the miner's average daily earnings from $14.75 to $16.35.

Producers said the price of coal would be raised an average 6 percent.

ICFTU Carries Freedom Message To Asia, Africa, Middle East

Washington.—The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions will hold meetings and send missions to Africa, Middle East and Asia in the next 90 days to strengthen further the forces resisting communist aggression and fascist dictatorship.

This was announced by J. H. Oldenbroek, general secretary of ICFTU, during a visit here after successful conclusion of the Mexico City meeting at which the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers was organized.

Mr. Oldenbroek announced that a mission will visit Central and West Africa during the latter half of January establishing contacts with free trade union movements. Another mission will go to East Africa in February, probably.

The ICFTU plans a conference in Teheran for Middle Eastern free trade union movements in April.

About May 15, the ICFTU will convene representatives of free trade union centers in Asia at Karachi to establish a regional organization like that now functioning for the Western Hemisphere and Europe.

Meanwhile members of the U. S. delegation to the Mexico City founding session of the IROW returned to this country. AFL representatives reported to the executive council meeting in Miami.

On the positive side, the conference passed a manifesto which gave a ringing message of hope for the peoples of the Americas.

The resolution, introduced by members of the U. S. delegation, pledged the IROW's "full and unlimited cooperation in strengthening the democratic forces in the Americas in order to create the economic, political and social conditions which form a durable peace." It also supported "the defense effort made by the democratic nations of the hemisphere against all forms of dictatorship."

Buy Independence Bonds.

Truman Pledges Voluntary Methods On Manpower Use

AID HOUSING

Washington.—Republican Rep. Jacob K. Javits, New York, introduced new legislation which would enable veterans to obtain more than one home loan within the prevailing loan guaranty limits of the GI bill.

Under the Housing Act of 1950 the law enables a veteran to obtain a home loan guaranty up to 60 percent of the amount borrowed up to a maximum amount of $7,500.

Under the Javits bill the veteran can again exercise his benefits under the GI bill for a new home loan of the difference between the amount previously guaranteed and $7,500 without being limited to the single loan already made.

Mobilizer Wilson Sees Price-Wage Controls Needed

Philadelphia.—Defense Mobilization Administrator Charles E. Wilson told the Poor Richard Club that mandatory controls on prices, wages, rents are necessary.

There were indications they might be imposed in a matter of days.

"Voluntary methods will not work," Mr. Wilson said, confirming the United Labor Policy Committee's position that U. S. stabilization to date was one big flop. He said:

"The power of law must be invoked. It must be used for allocation of materials, for prices, rents and wages—for whatever controls are necessary to prevent inflation, to promote production for defense, and provide a fair distribution of commodities among all our citizens. Whatever the causes for delay up to now, we must proceed with courage, speed and forthrightness to adopt the control which will insure stability and fairness in our civilian economy."

Mr. Wilson disclosed that the rate of defense purchase "has been sharply stepped up since the first of the year" and that "we are trying to use idle facilities and manpower available, such as government ordnance workers, before making demands on nondefense facilities which are presently producing for civilian demands."

STATISTICAL STUDY

Washington.—Hope for the eventual establishment of an international system of labor statistics will be furthered by a study to be made here by 19 Europeans. Economists and statisticians from 8 European countries are spending 6 weeks at the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics under sponsorship of the Economic Cooperation Administration technical assistance program.

Washington.—President Truman pledged that the government's manpower mobilization policy "will be based primarily upon voluntary measures."

He said controls will be used "when and to the extent needed to assure successful execution of the mobilization program."

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, who has been consulting with AFL and other labor leaders on this vital issue, and Defense Mobilizer Charles E. Wilson joined in approving Mr. Truman's statement on manpower.

Mr. Truman said in part:

Recruitment, placement, distribution, training and utilization of the civilian labor force (including government employes) will be based primarily upon voluntary measures for manpower mobilization.

This policy will be carried out through such measures as:

(1) Providing appropriate employment information to guide workers to jobs in which they can make their maximum contribution;

(2) Developing recruitment and rehabilitation activities needed to expand the labor force;

(3) Training persons to meet civilian manpower requirements and providing appropriate placement services;

(4) Providing assistance to employers in promoting maximum utilization of the labor force, including women, physically handicapped, older workers and minority groups;

(5) Providing adequate housing and community services; and

(6) Assisting workers to arrange for their transfer to essential jobs in other areas.

Governmental manpower controls will be used when and to the extent needed to assure successful execution of the mobilization program. Such controls will apply to employers, to workers, or to both. They will include:

(1) Restricting indiscriminate labor turnover through control of separations;

(2) Giving effect to manpower allocations by placing employment ceilings on employers with respect to the total number of workers, the number of men or the number in particular skills;

(3) Controlling of employer hiring, and

(4) Enforcing adherence to utilization standards, including full use of women, handicapped workers and minority groups.

All manpower programs will be geared to the needs and problems of specific geographical areas.

APPEARS ON TV

Richmond, Va.—Matthew Williams, president Local 203, AFL Tobacco Workers Union, appeared on the Philip Morris Cigarette television program over Columbia Broadcasting System, said to be one of the first such appearances by a local union president.

PAINTERS GIVE SERVICE CLUB FACE LIFTING.—Long Branch, N. J. John Gurzi (top, right), business representative Local 694 AFL Painters Union, leads group of members into clubhouse of Associated Services of the Armed Forces (ASAF), formerly USO, to give a new face to the club serving Fort Monmouth, N. J., as their contribution to making Long Branch "a welcome servicemen town."

AFL Council Demands Housing Adequate for Defense Workers

Miami.—Following is the text of the statement of Defense Housing Policy adopted by the American Federation of Labor Executive Council at its mid-winter meeting:

Despite the relatively large volume of residential construction in 1950, we have entered this period of defense mobilization with an acute housing shortage. It is, therefore, extremely important that this country maintain as large a homebuilding program as the present emergency will permit. In this crucial period when our housing shortage will become more acute, we must take the additional step of making certain that whatever housing is built is utilized to meet the nation's most acute housing needs.

It is, of course, true that the mobilization program will affect construction of new homes as it will affect all other aspects of American life. In devising an effective mobilization housing program, a prime consideration must be the relation of housing to the entire construction industry. The construction industry must be viewed in its entirety, with its manpower and material resources being devoted only to essential military and civilian activities.

We recognize that some cutbacks for both nonresidential and residential construction will probably be necessary. However, these should be so applied that they will have the least possible disturbing effect on the present organization of the industry. In particular, we are concerned lest restrictions applied to building construction lead to extensive periods of unemployment for building trades workers. We urge that the availability of building trades workers should be considered an important criterion in determining whether or not certain types of construction are undertaken. Where a relatively large number of building trades workers is available, a particular construction project serving a useful defense or civilian purpose should certainly not be prohibited unless it requires excessive amounts of strategic materials needed elsewhere in the defense effort.

Unfortunately, the policies of the federal government developed since the Korean outbreak have not been following these principles. Although various controls have been applied to both residential and nonresidential construction, no attempt has been made to work out a rational over-all program for the entire construction industry. Instead, on the basis of very little information, government officials decided that the country's housing program must be cut to 800,000-850,000 units in 1951.

Many of the particular steps taken by the federal government since the Korean outbreak have been ill-advised. The low-rent public housing program which Congress established only a year and a half ago in order to provide decent homes for our worst-housed families has been cut to less than half its authorized level. This cutback in the public housing program has been particularly inexcusable in view of the fact that there have been no effective limitations placed on luxury housing or, until recently, also on most types of nonessential nonresidential construction.

What is needed, instead of these moves of desperation, is a thorough analysis and program for the construction industry as a whole. In the light of our defense needs, decisions must be reached making certain that all essential requirements are met before nonessential building of any type is permitted. This will, of course, require the institution of an effective priorities and allocation program which, by eliminating luxury housing and nonessential nonresidential construction, will insure that the materials and manpower available for the construction industry will actually be used to satisfy our most imperative defense and civilian requirements.

It remains to be seen how the present government order restricting nonessential nonresidential construction will succeed. To be successful, administration of these restrictions must take into account the actual supply of construction materials and the availability of building trades workers at specific times and locations.

We strongly urge that the unions of building trades be consulted in drawing up policies affecting the construction industry and that representatives of these unions participate in the administration of the government's residential and nonresidential construction programs. Only in this way can the building trades unions' intimate knowledge of the material and manpower resources of the construction industry be utilized to the maximum advantage during the present emergency.

PUBLIC HOUSING

The Housing Act of 1949 authorized an average yearly construction of about 135,000 low-rent public housing units for low-income families. If we are to have an over-all volume of housing of 850,000 units in 1951—or indeed whatever conceivable volume of housing we can maintain short of all-out of war—we see no reason whatsoever for limiting the construction of lowrent public housing units below the amount authorized by Congress. Since the need for housing is obviously greater among the families served by the public housing program than among any other group in the population, we urge that the public housing program continue as scheduled.

In carrying out this public housing program, we urge that projects be located, insofar as possible, on vacant sites so that existing housing will not have to be demolished in order for these projects to be constructed. In that way, each unit of low-rent public housing constructed will represent an actual addition to our limited housing supply.

DEFENSE HOUSING

In order to make sure that defense workers and their families are adequately housed, we must undertake immediately a large-scale defense housing program. The planning of this program must be dovetailed completely with our industrial expansion program.

At all costs we must avoid the mistakes that were made in the war housing program of World War II. Adequate housing for defense workers must be available at the time that new defense plants begin operations. This means that land for defense housing projects should be secured at the same time as the land for the plant is obtained and the defense housing projects, as well as necessary utilities and community facilities, should be constructed while the plants are being built.

We urge that the defense housing program be composed primarily of permanent-type units suitable for normal family life. The sad experience of World War II has taught us that the construction of make-shift temporary housing units, trailer camps and the like represents only a false type of economy.

Another lesson learned from World War II is that defense workers must not be forced to buy jerry-built houses at inflated prices simply because there is a shortage of decent rental accommodations in defense production centers. It is to be expected that many workers will be recruited into areas in which they do not expect to become permanent residents. Emphasis must, therefore, be placed on the construction of rental housing, particularly in those areas which may be largely demobilized after the emergency is over.

Furthermore, the rental units built in defense centers must be available to the workers there at rents they can afford to pay. Insofar as possible these houses should be built by private builders.

We believe that such defense housing projects should be operated by local housing authorities wherever they exist. These authorities have already had the experience of operating the World War II war housing projects as well as peacetime low-rent public housing. They can certainly be entrusted with the responsibility of handling our new defense housing program.

Many of the objectives of the recently introduced defense housing bill seem to be worthwhile. However, it does not provide sufficient assurance that the housing built in defense areas will meet either the needs or the pocketbooks of most defense workers' families.

CREDIT REGULATIONS

In addition to the cutbacks in housing construction for our lowest income families, the government's housing policy has made it increasingly impossible for most middle-income families to obtain any new housing. On October 12, the Housing and Home Finance Agency and the Federal Reserve Board jointly issued credit regulations (Regulation X) sharply raising the down payment requirements for low-priced homes. Under these restrictions, the average worker's family without large accumulated savings finds itself unable to purchase a new house. Yet, by and large, it is these middle-income families whose housing needs are second only to the families in the lowest income groups.

When Regulation X was issued, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, warned that its effect would be "cut off low and middle-income families from the opportunity to purchase new homes."

Experience since the issuance of Regulation X fully bears out President Green's warning. Available figures indicate that there has been a decided shift toward higher priced homes since Regulation X came into effect. Thus applications for FHA mortgage insurance on new homes indicate that whereas before Regulation X the mortgage amount was more than $10,500 or 25 percent of all units, since Regulation X went into effect this has increased to 30 to 40 percent. Similarly the new regulations the same mortgage amount actually means a higher price, the shift to the higher priced houses has been even greater than these figures indicate at first glance. A similar trend is also apparent on VA-guaranteed homes.

ADMINISTRATION OF DEFENSE HOUSING PROGRAM

Responsibility for coordinating our entire housing program rests with the Housing and Home Finance Agency. The AFL has criticized the way in which this agency has discharged its responsibility to meet our nation's housing requirements during peacetime. We have felt that far too little attention has been paid to providing housing for those with the greatest need. This has been unreasonable in the past but would be utterly indefensible during the critical period which now faces us.

In particular, we urge the Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency to exercise a much closer supervision than heretofore over the Federal Housing Administration. For too long the FHA has been tied too closely to the interests of speculative builders while it has merely paid lip service to the needs of the families who are the consumers of housing.

The existing Public Housing Administration rather than some new defense housing agency should be given the responsibility for coordinating the new middle income defense housing program with the over-all housing program. PHA has had experience both with war housing during World War II and with the low-rent public housing program. It knows how to work with the local housing authorities which should be entrusted with the operation of the defense housing projects. Setting up a new defense housing agency would mean that the local housing authorities would have to conform to the requirements of two different federal agencies. This would inevitably result in inefficiency, confusion, and delay.

However, we recognize that PHA, as it is now constituted, has neither the organization nor the personnel to do this job. Therefore, we urge that PHA be strengthened and overhauled so that it can effectively handle both the existing low-rent public housing program and the middle income defense housing program.

RENT CONTROL

With the prospect of curtailed construction of new houses, we must expect to place primary reliance for an indefinite period on our existing housing supply. If we had been able to keep up housing construction at a high rate, we could have expected to gradually remove rent controls. However, that is not possible now and the rent control program, therefore, becomes even more important than it has been during the past few years.

In order to extend and strengthen the rent control program, we urge the following steps:

(1) The rent-control program should be put on a "for the duration" basis. If we were to extend rent control once more for only a short period, it would make it extremely difficult to operate the program on an efficient basis.

(2) The Housing Expediter should be authorized to impose rent controls in any area where the limited supply of rental accommodations threatens to bring about a general increase in rents.

(3) If it becomes necessary, the Housing Expediter should have the right to control rents of all dwellings built since 1947 now free from control.

Council Urges Rent Controls For Duration of Emergency

Miami.—The AFL Executive Council urged Congress to enact strong federal rent controls for every area where needed for the duration of the present defense mobilization emergency.

Present controls expire next March 31.

Other positive proposals by the council to meet the acute shortage of housing included:

Public Housing—Locate projects on vacant sites so as not to demolish existing housing.

Defense Housing—Dovetail with industrial expansion, building homes at same time as plants go up. Should be permanent type units suitable for normal family life. Workers should not be forced to buy jerry-built houses at inflated prices. Public housing projects should be operated by local housing authorities.

Administration Defense Housing—Should be handled by Public Housing Administration expanded enough to perform the job and overhauled. Closer supervision over Federal Housing Administration which "for too long has been tied too closely to the interests of speculative builders while it has merely paid lip service to the needs of the families who are consumers of housing."

Credit Regulations—Revise them. They have made it all but impossible for most middle-income families to obtain any new housing.

JOINS MAYOR'S CABINET—New York.—Dominick Paduano (left), member Local 3 AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Takes oath as Commissioner of Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity in Mayor Vincent Impelliteri's cabinet, first trade unionist to be so honored.

AFL Man Named By Impelliteri

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent AFL News Service.

New York.—Dominick Paduano, member of Local 3, AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, is New York's new commissioner of the strategic Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity.

A member of the AFL since 1923, Mr. Paduano is believed to be the first trade unionist in the city's history to receive this coveted appointment.

He was sworn in by Mayor Impelliteri in the presence of Harry Van Arsdale, Jr., Local 3 business manager; Martin T. Lacey, president of the Central Trades and Labor Council, and other AFL officials.

Commissioner Paduano announced that he would immediately undertake to get wages in his department in line with present-day living costs.

The present commissioner entered the department as an electrical inspector after having been an IBEW local union official. He now holds the highest civil service rank in the department, something no other commissioner before him has ever held.

Mr. Paduano has been a Central Trades delegate, union organizer and an expert on relations between civil service workers and trade unions.

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(3) If it becomes necessary, the Housing Expediter should have the right to control rents of all dwellings built since 1947 now free from control.

RE-APPOINTED

New York.—Two veterans of the local trade union movement have been appointed to high positions in the city government by Mayor Vincent R. Impelliteri.

They are Former Magistrate Charles Solomon, New York State representative of Labor's League for Political Education, identified actively with LLPE since its inception, and Dominick F. Paduano, for many years a member of Local 3, Electrical Workers, and for several years a deputy commissioner in that Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity of the City of New York.

Mr. Solomon was reappointed to the bench of the magistrates court on which he had already served a 10-year term by appointment of former Mayor F. H. La Guardia.

Both appointees were sponsored by the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York and Vicinity of which Martin T. Lacey is president. Mr. Lacey and the Central Trades played an important part in the election of Mayor Impelliteri.

Judge Solomon, who has addressed trade union gatherings throughout the country for LLPE, wants trade unionists to know he intends to continue his activities for the league.

STUDY PRODUCTIVITY

Washington.—War and postwar trends in productivity were discussed at a conference on productivity, third in a series sponsored by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of the Budget, for spokesmen from labor, industry, government, universities, and private research organizations.

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